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SOURCE Petrol si Gaze.

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF RUMANIAN NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION

Engr M. Ciortea

The Five-Year Plan of the Rumanian People's Republic calls for 204 percent greater production of natural gas in 1955 than in 1950. Oil production will be increased 183 percent in the same period.

The rapid rate of industrial development has resulted in an unexpected rise in the consumption of natural gas in those areas now served by conduits. The Rumanian chemical industry will turn to the use of natural gas as a raw material. This increase will necessitate the systematic expansion of the pipe network and the location of new chemical industries in areas well supplied by natural gas.

The oil industry is the largest single consumer of natural gas. It uses far more than it is able to produce. Tar, at present extensively used in the industry as a fuel, will have to be replaced by gas in order to permit the export of large quantities of tar. Gas from the Transylvania fields will have to be used by the petroleum industry. In addition, gas produced from the oil wells themselves will have to be used to the greatest extent possible. Wells which yield quantities exceeding their own needs will have to supply other wells, refineries, workshops, etc. For this reason a complex network of pipes, conducting wet and dry gas, has been gradually developed in the oil region.

However, to meet the new production goals established by the Five-Year Plan it will be necessary to extract oil from areas to the north and west of the present oil country. This will necessitate a considerable expansion of the pipe network in those directions. Each oil well will deliver its surplus gas, by way of connecting pipes, to a main conduit which, in turn, will supply consumers in and around the oil region. Plans will call for the construction of a principal elevated gas pipe running parallel to the Carpathian Mountains and extending both to the north and west in proportion to growth of new oil fields.

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This main pipe could also be used to supply gas to the principal cities located in its vicinity. To accomplish this successfully, however, it would be necessary to transport from one point to another not only the excess gas produced by oil wells but also the large reserves of natural gases located in the Transylvanian plain.

In this manner, the main sub-Carpathian pipe would have to serve three functions: (1) conduct gas from one oil well to another; (2) conduct this gas to the important points of consumption within the oil industry (refineries, etc.); and (3) conduct any additional gas needed by the oil industry, that is, gas derived from the Transylvanian plains, which would be sent through connecting pipes into the main gas pipe.

The main pipe, which will therefore have to convey large quantities of gas at as low a pressure as possible, will need to have as large a diameter as possible, so that the pressure will not exceed approximately 20 atmospheres. Preliminary computations indicate that a diameter of 20 inches would be satisfactory.

The route of the main pipe should run as close as possible to the oil wells, points of consumption, and branching points of connecting pipes. It would also be advantageous if the route were drawn to include the more important towns so that they might be efficiently supplied with gas. Of course, the route will be determined to a large extent by the configuration of the terrain. For this reason it will be necessary to avoid the hilly sub-Carpathian region, which in some places is very uneven and geographically unstable.

Connection of Sub-Carpathian Pipe With Transylvania Gas

The sub-Carpathian pipe is connected with the natural gas fields of the Transylvanian basin by an existing pipe, which will have a diameter of 20 inches throughout its length and through which substantial quantities of gas will flow daily.

The second connection will be made through another pipe, the construction of which is provided for in the Five-Year Plan. This pipe will be used, as already indicated, for supplying the industrial centers of the north with gas. The connection of this pipe with the sub-Carpathian pipe would be made in such a manner that the main pipe would receive the gases from Transylvania at its northern extremity and its central section.

The only remaining problem would then be supplying the westernmost point of the sub-Carpathian arch. However, the construction of a connecting pipe, essential as it may be, will have to be delayed until the second Five-Year Plan.

Summary and Conclusions

The plan for the systematization of supplying natural gases, as here proposed, offers the following advantages and fulfills the following requirements:

1. The plan takes into account the fact that natural gas resources are limited, and it is worked out accordingly.

2. It considers the existing relationship between the exploitation of oil, of gases derived from oil, and of the natural gases from Transylvania.

3. It systematizes the development of the future network of conduit pipes in the oil-producing regions.

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4. It provides opportunities for the establishment of industries in many new localities.

5. It solves the problem of supplying gas to certain ports within a more systematized framework.

6. It assures a continuous and reliable supply of gas to industry.

7. The large reserve capacity of the main and connecting pipes reassures industry that its needs will be met even in cases of emergency.

As soon as new reserves are discovered in various parts of the country, they will supply gas to the existing network of conduit pipes without requiring any changes in that system. Supplying gas to western Transylvania is contingent upon the discovery of new sources of gas either in central, northwestern, western, and southern Transylvania, or in western Moldavia. Consequently, it is impossible to begin supplying gas to that region until the extent of the gas reserves is ascertained.

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